

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 14-18 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 14-18 have been added. Claims 3, 4 and 9-13 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable claim 4 and the intervening claim 3. In addition, independent claim 14 has been added to include the allowable claim 7 and the intervening claims 3 and 6. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 14 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsinker, U.S. Patent No. 6,323,692. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsinker in view of Momtaz, U.S. Patent No. 5,950,115. Claims 12 and 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsinker in view of FIGs. 1A and 1B of the present application. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable claim 4 and the intervening claim 3, and claims 10-13 have been cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

In addition to new independent claim 14, additional claims 15-18 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-18 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claim 14, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 14-18 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

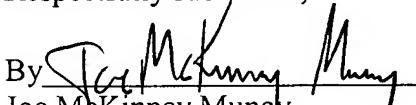
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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